

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN EDITOR

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5, 1916.

FORESEEING "LEAN YEARS TO COME."

It is needless to say that Hawaii will read with close attention the address of Mr. Allen W. T. Bottomley, retiring president of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association. That address, published in full in today's paper, speaks glowingly of the prosperous times of the present, but indicates lean years to come and emphasizes the necessity of getting ready for these lean years.

President Bottomley does not take up the subject of transportation of sugar to the mainland, presumably because this is a part of Hawaii's industry handled by another organization, the Sugar Factors Company. Nevertheless it is a subject in which the planters' association is vitally interested, in common with all Hawaii, and which demands attention by every commercial body in the islands.

In "the lean years to come" when Hawaii is competing with the cane-growers of Cuba and Europe and the sugar-beet growers of the mainland United States, this territory must have control of its shipping. It will then be imperatively necessary to control as far as possible every factor of our chief industry, so that we can develop efficiency, economies and allied businesses to the fullest extent. It will also be necessary for the interests of Hawaii to develop their freight and passenger lines so that the mercantile and tourist businesses can be given the greatest degree of encouragement—a larger and larger opportunity to ride over the lean years when profits on sugar are less generous.

The difficulty which local merchants have had in getting their Christmas goods is but one of a thousand instances which might be cited of insufficient steamer accommodations.

The men at the helm of Hawaii's great sugar industry are the men to take hold of this problem.

JAMES L. McLEAN.

Honolulu heard with a profound shock, followed by widespread and acute sorrow, that James L. McLean had died suddenly early this morning.

An esteemed and estimable citizen, Mr. McLean had taken an effective part in many movements for the progress and welfare of his city, in a quiet, unostentatious way which, to those who knew him, did not conceal the independence of his thought. To very many Honoluluans he was "Jim" McLean, and it is perhaps the best tribute to him to say that the keenest shock, outside his family and intimate friends, was felt on the waterfront, in the shipping circles where he spent his business life. From the chiefs of the Inter-Island company to the deck-hands and roustabouts on steamers and wharves, there was a sense of bereavement so strong it expressed itself at times in tears shed by men ordinarily without emotion.

BOND ELECTION COST.

The cost of the primary election held October 7, 1916, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the senate and house of representatives was \$2300.

The cost of holding the general election, including also the bond election and the purchase of a large stock of water-marked paper (\$967) was \$5248.

The estimated cost now of holding a special election on the bond issue is \$2200.

The very modest request of the venerable Queen Liliuokalani, former ruler of the Sandwich Islands, that one of the new battle cruisers be named Hawaii, will doubtless be granted by the navy department. It should be so named and the big warship put in the Pacific as a sister ship to the new dreadnought, California, whose keel recently was laid at Mare Island.—Bakersfield, Cal., Echo.

PROSPERITY TO BE FOLLOWED BY LEAN TIME, SAYS PLANTERS' HEAD

(Continued from page one)

by all of us, the year 1916 also brought us excellent prices for our crop.

Year 1916 Most Prosperous

In the annals of the sugar industry of Hawaii, a more prosperous year than that preceding this meeting of the association has never been recorded. It is true that prices of sugar have been much higher at some periods in the past than during last year, but the low yields and consequently high cost of production of those times more than offset the increased returns from the sale of sugar. The average New York price for raw sugar during our fiscal year was \$11.25 per ton, which has not been exceeded in the average of any year since 1889. This year, and last have brought good profits for the plantations and profitable times for the islands as a whole; for when the sugar business is prosperous its prosperity is reflected in almost every other line of business, and the reverse of this is equally true.

"While we have every right to enjoy the prosperity that has come to us, we must not allow ourselves to be unduly carried away thereby, but should exercise discretion in the management and conservation of the finances of the sugar plantation corporations. There seems to be little doubt

but that prosperous times will be our good fortune next year and probably for a short time thereafter. Let us realize, however, that our prosperity and the wonderful prosperity in almost every line of business throughout the United States rests on a very slender foundation, and that lean years are sure to follow in the wake of the termination of the European war, and let us also bear in mind our constantly rising cost of production. The increased cost of labor and materials going into the production of a ton of sugar has been very great, and one does not have to be a prophet to forecast a very heavy increase in the cost of marketing our sugar during the next few years. There has been a tremendous expansion in the sugar industry of Cuba and in the beet sugar industry of the United States, and when the European nations can again devote themselves to peaceful occupations, there will be a production of sugar which the world has never before experienced with a consequent lowering of prices.

Take Thought For Future

"It behooves us, therefore, while our industry is profitable to provide for the future. This, I firmly believe, is being done—some are paying off bonds and other indebtedness and saving aside emergency funds against time of need, and others are putting

in much needed improvements in the mills and in the fields whereby the cost of production may be lowered and yields increased, and all of the plantations are preparing in their own way to fit themselves for the struggle which is surely before us. My only hope is that this conservative policy may continue, and if it does, I feel sure that when the time of stress comes we shall not be found wanting.

Crop for Year

The total production of sugar for the year ending September 30 last was 593,483 short tons, nearly 53,000 tons less than the previous year. The island of Hawaii led in production, producing 197,654 tons, and next in order comes Maui with 150,312 tons, Oahu 126,966 tons, and Kauai with 108,551 tons.

Unfavorable weather conditions on the island of Hawaii during the crop season very materially reduced the production of that island, and if it had not been for this, the production of the islands for this year would have been only slightly lower than that of the previous year.

"It is a pleasure and a source of gratification to all of us that while enjoying exceedingly prosperous times the plantations have unselfishly and voluntarily shared this prosperity with those who till the soil and perform the manual labor necessary in the production of sugar. Whatever may be the criticism of the high percentage of bonus paid to the plantation workers, it is unquestionably true that the fundamental principle underlying the bonus system, which is, that in times of prosperity the laborer shall share therein with the employer, is correct; and it is to the

credit of the sugar plantations that they have been quick to apply this principle and deal justly and generously with their laborers.

Labor Conditions Fairly Satisfactory

"Generally speaking, the labor conditions on the plantations during the year have been fairly satisfactory. Some of the plantations have been more or less pressed for labor at different times, but I cannot recall any particular period when all of the necessary laborers needed to conduct plantation operations were on hand. If at any time all of the plantations had all the laborers required, I fear that some of us would think that the millennium had arrived.

Benefits of Filipino Immigration

"The payment of a portion of the bonus monthly and the extension thereof to contractors has served to keep plantation hands contented and on the job nearly all the time. Filipino immigration has continued without interruption and the labor committee will report that for the year under consideration a total of 1674 men, 141 women and 134 children have arrived in Hawaii from the Philippine Islands. It is our hope and desire that this immigration may continue. Not only are we receiving benefit therefrom, but the Filipinos are also profiting. Very considerable sums of money are being taken home or sent home by laborers, and those who return are certainly more competent and efficient through their experience as plantation laborers in Hawaii.

Splendid Work of Experiment Station

"The experiment station has had a very active year under the able direction of Mr. Agee, in cooperation with the experiment station committee. As a full report of the work done will be made by the director of the station and the committee and presented to you for consideration, I do not need to refer to their work beyond mentioning a few matters in passing which seem to me to be worthy of attention.

"The work being done in connection with plantation experiments, which is referred to in the report of the experiment station committee, seems to me to give promise of great results, and I trust that these experiments will be continued and extended through the cooperation of the plantation managers. The plan now in operation for training a number of young men in the agricultural and chemical departments of the station should fill a long-felt want, and from these young men we may surely expect to find some of the future managers and head overseers.

Success in Fighting Pests

"In passing, I would like also to congratulate the pathological division on the excellent success which has attended their work in connection with the search for parasites for the ananias beetle, and the establishment on the infested fields of one species of these parasites, viz., Scolia wasp.

"The Makiki station has been extended by the purchase of a lot containing somewhat over an acre of land adjoining the present station, and plans have been approved and a contract let for a fire-proof building which will provide additional room for the staff and the valuable station library and entomological collection. With the completion of these improvements, which are being made at a time when the plantations can well afford to pay for them, the Makiki station should be well equipped for its work for some time to come.

"One of the most important subjects which will be brought to your attention at this meeting is the necessity for a great improvement being made in the quality of sugars which we are sending to the refiners, and I trust this most important matter will receive your careful consideration and that some means will be devised for the establishment of a standard of quality which will be adhered to by all.

"It is a truth too well known to need repetition, that in order to obtain the best market price a manufacturer has to be continually on the alert to improve the quality of his wares; and if, for one reason or another, the quality is allowed to decline, the manufacturer soon finds, in these days of competition, that he is losing his market, or has to take a lower price than his competitors. This is equally true of the manufacturer of sugar as of anything else. Competition in the sugar business, as in almost every other line of business, is becoming keener all the time, and we may be sure that the Cubans, with their ever-increasing crops, which they sell in competition with each other and with Hawaiian and Porto Rican sugars, are losing no opportunity of making a sugar more and more in conformity with the requirements of the buyers. The result will be that unless radical improvements are made at the beginning of this crop, and continued through the season, new contracts will only be made subject to a deduction, based on refining value, in excess of anything we have ever had to pay in the past. Though we have long been accustomed to paying more attention to getting as much as possible for our sugars than we have to their quality,

I feel sure that different methods must be adopted in the future, and that every effort must be made to change Hawaiian sugars from being the least desirable to being one of the most desirable sugars offered to the refiners, and in doing this it must not be forgotten that owing to the ash content of our sugars, we are already at a disadvantage as compared with the Cubans. It should also be remembered that a very few, perhaps even one plantation, sending a poor quality of sugar, is quite sufficient to give the whole business a black eye and undo all the good work which is being done by others, therefore I say that I believe that all the plantations should agree to make a standard grade of sugar which will be satisfactory to the refiners, and that through its experiment station the association should see that this standard is lived up to by all.

Veteran Members, Present and Absent

"It is very pleasant to see so full an attendance of members at this meeting, including several of our charter members, namely, Mr. P. C. Jones, Mr. W. O. Smith and Mr. George Wilcox. I regret, however, that among the absentees there are three gentlemen who have by their long experience and great knowledge of the sugar business contributed much to the success of our annual meetings in the past—I mean Mr. Tenney, Mr. J. P. Cooke and Mr. Swanzy. Two of them, Mr. Cooke and Mr. Swanzy, as you know, have been very seriously ill, but I am glad to say that they are now considerably better, and it is, I know, the earnest hope of all of us that both these gentlemen will be restored to health at an early date and that we may soon again have the benefit of their wise and kindly counsel.

Value of Annual Meetings

"My observation of these meetings, extending over a period of about 10 years, leads me strongly to believe that the interest in these annual gatherings is ever increasing, and that the participation in discussions following the reading of the papers is growing more and more valuable year after year. This is a most encouraging sign that we are all alive to the problems which have to be faced, for, gentlemen, I feel that we realize that when conditions become normal, low prices must be expected, even with a continuance of the moderate protection which we are now getting. I, for one, however, have no fear for the future: We have met and overcome our bad times in the past and we will meet and overcome them in the future, and I have no doubt that the men at the head of our plantations, who, by their energy and resourcefulness, have brought the sugar industry of Hawaii to the high position which it now occupies, will be fully able to cope with whatever emergencies may arise."

Among Those Present

Among the members of the association who answered the roll call this morning were A. W. T. Bottomley, W. O. Smith, C. H. Atherton, F. C. Atherton, Frank A. Alexander, E. F. Bishop, E. K. Bull, George Chalmers, John Chalmers, R. A. Cooke, James Campsie, William R. Castle, T. Clive Davies, J. M. Dowsett, C. F. Eckart, G. R. Ewart, H. Focke, David Forbes, A. Gartley, W. M. Giffard, W. W. Goodale, J. C. Hagens, Robert Hall, John Hind, Charles R. Hemenway, James Henderson, R. A. Hutcheson, R. Ren-ton Hind, P. C. Jones, James Johnson, Henry J. Lyman, J. T. Moir, J. R. Myers, H. B. Penhalow, T. H. Petrie, William Pullar, H. H. Perry, George F. Renton, George Rodiek, John M. Ross, E. A. R. Ross, John A. Scott, A. Valentine, J. W. Waldron, L. J. Warren, John Waterhouse, George C. Watt, John Watt, F. Weber, Charles H. Wilcox, G. N. Wilcox, J. N. S. Williams, E. H. Wodehouse, J. R. Wilcox, J. L. Cockburn, W. A. Ramsay and E. Kopke.

All the plantations are represented.

REPORT OF YEAR FROM SECRETARY

(Continued from page one)

of the bureau of labor statistics of the association, for the year ending September 30, 1916, is herewith presented, showing a total tonnage for the year 593,483 (short tons), being 52,962 tons less than the previous year. A statement of the tonnage produced for the past 10 years is also presented herewith.

"The following named new members of the association have been elected during the past year: Messrs. Alexander Valentine, W. P. Naquin and J. L. Coburn.

"The following named member resigned during the past year: Mr. W. J. Dyer.

"The total number of individual members of the association is at present 129. In November, 1915, the total number was 128, since which time three new members have been admitted, one member resigned and one member, Mr. W. G. Ogg, died.

"Mr. W. G. Ogg had been a mem-

Christmas

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Paid Publicity is Power.

ber of the association for many years and his death on August 22, 1916, was mourned by a large circle of acquaintances and friends. His knowledge of the cultivation and manufacture of sugar was extensive and thorough. He was an efficient executive officer and beloved by all associated with him.

"At the last annual meeting of the association the subject was discussed of the need for some system of boiler inspection in the territory and the subject was referred to the trustees of the association for action. Later the subject was referred by the trustees to the committee on manufacturing machinery."

FIELD ARTILLERY TO HAVE NEW EQUIPMENT

To exchange some of their caissons and other material for new equipment which is being kept in store for the regiment, a large portion of the 9th Field Artillery will come to town tomorrow from Schofield Barracks. The men will leave the barracks today, coming as far as Red Hill, where they will stay overnight.

A meeting of the board of license commissioners will be held Wednesday afternoon to act on an application for a liquor license transfer.

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